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To ensure your articles and ads are included, please get them to us six weeks before publication.

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The Community Council meets the first Thursday of most months, at the Peterson-Dumesnil House, 301 S. Peterson Avenue.

Membership costs \$15 a year and includes the newsletter, a discount card for Crescent Hill businesses and a vast array of volunteer opportunities.

Contact Membership Chairman, Jerry Fielden at
jgfielden@insightbb.com

The CHCC is a nonprofit organization that produces this newsletter and the Crescent Hill Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration.

Next meetings: Thursday, September 2 and October 7 at 7:30 pm at PD House.



Ad Lib

Joe Ward

It was fitting that we celebrated the 4th of July by giving Gene Heustis a plaque, and it's not just because he always wears that fantastic Uncle Sam suit.

Gene knows something about fireworks.

He was strolling along a catwalk on an aircraft carrier near Formosa toward the end of World War II, when he spotted a Japanese plane coming in low, with a lot of bombs hanging from it. He was just a farm boy from New Albany, but he thought he knew a Kamikaze when he saw one.

He had to think fast. He jerked the handle on a door in a steel bulkhead nearby and was about to jump inside when he noticed there were a lot of bombs in there, too.

He slammed the door shut and flattened himself on the catwalk just before the fireworks went off. The blast almost sank the carrier, but, lucky for us, it didn't get Gene.

He also knows something about parades. They got his carrier patched up and back into the war zone in time to be in Tokyo Bay for the Japanese surrender in September 1945, along with 245 other allied ships, and 1,000 planes. Now that's a parade.

Gene came back to the farm and eventually made his way across the river to start a career in service stations on Frankfort Avenue, first at S. Peterson Ave., where the funeral home is now, then to Cannons Lane, and finally he settled at Frankfort and Weisser. Along the way he built up a legion of customers and friends, so that many Crescent Hill adults knew Gene as a friend of their parents.

That sort of engagement will get you sucked into all kinds of neighborhood affairs. Gene helped put together the Crescent Hill Community Council and served on its board, and helped form the Peterson-Dumesnil House Foundation, and served on its board. He helped get the Crescent Hill Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration off the ground and has helped keep it going.



Gene Heustis with the Mayor.

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